

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended claim 2 to address the 35 USC §112, second paragraph objection regarding the antecedency for the hook member base portion.

With regard to the rejection of claims 1-4 as anticipated under 35 USC §102(b) over the Nestegard patent (U.S. Patent No. 4,894,060). This rejection is respectfully traversed. In this patent, the continuous ribs are cut to form discrete portions 57 of the ribs, however at this point the discrete portions 57 are not actually spaced one from another. The spacing results from stretching the base 53 of the strip. This is described at col. 6, lines 44-54, specifically "such stretching causes spaces between the portions 57 of the ribs which then become the hook portions for the completed hook fastener portion 10." Prior to the stretching operation, the discrete portions are not spaced but rather are similar to a loaf of bread which has been sliced with a blade or knife. When the discrete portions 57 are stretched as described at the top of page 8, col. 8, at a stretch ratio of 4:1, the center-to-center machine direction spacing of the discrete members or stems is 0.0977 cm which translates into approximately 10 spaced projections per linear centimeter. This is clearly distinguished from the spacing for the claimed spaced projections.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application claims are in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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